

The Colored American

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We solicit news, contributions, opinions and in fact all matters affecting the race. We will not pay for matter, however unless it is ordered by us. All matter intended for publication must reach this office by Wednesday of each week to insure insertion in the current issue.

Agents are wanted everywhere. Send for instructions.

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IS THE REPUBLIC TO LIVE?

The evidence is accumulating and we cannot resist the conclusion that conspiracy among southern white men to deprive the Negroes of his constitutional rights has lately taken large proportions, and extends to what is practically a persecution of the entire race and a denial of an opportunity to earn a livelihood otherwise than in the most abject pursuits. The hope for higher things which "springs eternal in the human breast," the anxious solicitude of our parents that their children should walk in higher spheres of duty and endeavor than were permitted to them, is to be met by the stern rebuff—"Ye cannot enter here!" We often wonder whether these white men have ever taken counsel of their better selves or have comprehended the lessons of the world's history. The greatest most powerful and the proudest nation known to history in all the ages ago have fallen and become a memory only less from the incursions of outside barbarians or the prowess of warlike and jealous rivals than from internecine strife and reactionary narrowness, weakening the centers of powers and emasculating the nation's patriotism and virility.

Has the war of the rebellion taught them no sufficient lesson? Have they not heard the voice of the great Master of the Universe in the earthquakes which have terrorized their section? Is there no warning in the disasters by floods or in the decimation of their people by hideous and contagious disease which have so recently afflicted them, or are they insensate? These men are brave and chivalric in all else, they are good husbands and fathers and yet they seem incapable of doing justice to the Negroes to whom they owe so much. There is to the

Negro's credit more than two hundred years of unrequited toil and his loyal service and protection to all the families and homes of these men while they were engaged in the supreme effort to throttle the best government on earth. They now confess their error and their satisfaction that their damnable hereafter received its death blow at Appomattox. Did not the Negro shed his blood freely, and was not his bravery fully tested on many fields of carnage during that Titanic struggle? Has not the black man himself won his right to all the rewards of good citizenship by his own admirable conduct, by his love of country and of peace, his obedience to her laws and his insatiable desire for the higher and nobler places in the economy of life? He is entitled to them and he is going to have them sooner or later. Let there be no mistake about this. If the situation were not in its entirety almost tragical, we might laugh at a few of its phases.

As for example look at this tempest in a tea pot raised by some of the southern newspapers over the Visit one night not long since of a few colored ladies and gentlemen to a White House Reception. It does not seem to be considered that they were invited by the President and had therefore perfect right to be present at the function or that visits by colored ladies and gentlemen to the White House have not been uncommon since the days of President Grant. One paper whose prejudices are more apparent than is the accuracy of its information gravely informs its readers that no colored woman ever before attended a White House reception. Yet a great many people know differently and we need only to remind our blinded friend, "Milt Saul," that there is a very amiable and cultivated colored lady even now residing in great retirement but with proper dignity in the state of Mississippi, who was a welcome guest at all White House functions during the term of her distinguished husband as United States Senator and who attended them quite regularly. Nor does it appear to matter that the gentlemen in this party hold commissions as federal officers at the Capital of the Nation, given them by the President following confirmation by the United States Senate after the application of the most rigid tests as to their character and capacity. They are men whom we all delight to honor. They are at least the peers of "Milt Saul" and his kind and yet neither their positions nor their personal worth could stay the shafts of prejudice or the malice of elaborate and deliberate misinformation.

Of course the real race question involved is of higher significance but the incident shows clearly the animus. Why do southern white men have these sudden attacks of the horrors whenever a Negro is found in a parlor as a guest. Are they afraid us? Are we more engaging? Are we their superiors in the social arts? Are they unwilling to measure swords with us in intellectual acquirements? It must be so and it would appear to the logical mind that this race which has "had an unbroken civilization" for thousands of years is not quite too sure of its primacy.

The several mass-meetings held in this city recently by some of the over zealous admirers of Mr. Washington do more harm than good. They give a few disgruntled sore heads an opportunity to get before the public through the columns of the newspapers Mr. Washington needs no defense by

anyone. Let his critics do something. The industrious thrifty law-abiding colored people of the District of Columbia approved Mr. Washington's works and methods.

The Kansas legislature is trying to "but in" in the Jim Crow business.

The Tillmans are still in the public eye. Are they to remain the joke of the American press?

The peaceful methods of solving the race problem along industrial lines seem after all the best.

The Negro newspapers are in harmony on one subject at least—Mr. Jas. H. Hayes is being excoriated in great style.

Can morality ever be too highly pitched? There can be no two standards: One for the clergyman and the other for the layman.

Industry, economy, and self-denial, are the secrets of success. The honorable man who goes in debt for a home soon realizes this fact.

The District Negro stands high in the estimation of our judiciary as a conscientious and intelligent jurymen. One more argument for better treatment.

While the colored editors are fighting among themselves, the Southern white press is molding sentiment; and enacting laws against the colored people.

When a great mind stored with the accumulated learning of years yields sceptre to grim death the sense of personal loss is often swallowed up in vain regret that humanity must lose this wealth of attainment also.

Dr. Crum was a very popular man in South Carolina, and a powerful factor when the appropriation was sought from Congress for the great Exposition at Charleston. Why this marked change in public sentiment, when President Roosevelt desires to reward him with a small Federal appointment?

Prof. Kelly Miller's article in the Washington Post, of Sunday last, on the proposed congressional inquiry into the condition of the race in this country easily sustained his high character as a deep thinker, and an ardent lover of his people. We concur with him fully that this inquiry should be made, and we feel confident that if it be comprehensive it will disclose the many admirable traits which distinguish the race and which appeal to the loftier sense of fairness in our white fellow citizens. The progress of the American Negro is without parallel in the country's history. Let our Congress show to the world what we have done.

Mr. James H. Hayes has returned to his Richmond home, a sadder and we hope a wiser man. His brave fight against the iniquitous constitutional amendments of Virginia had won him an enviable place in the esteem of all good citizens; but what a fall! He is discredited and despised as a senseless agitator and he has probably destroyed his utility in the suits for the recovery of the Negro's rights soon to be heard in the Supreme Court of the United States. Mr. Hayes should beware the fate of the "versatile" man. Do one thing well and continue to do that, venturing not upon other and unknown seas where shipwreck and disaster alone await the untried mariner.

The power and influence for good, of the Negro press in this country, and its thoroughly representative character have been commended even by the best journals of the white people, but a perusal of our exchanges suggests a few thoughts not entirely complimentary. A foreigner or one not acquainted with the peculiar, and, we might say, fearful elements which make up the intellectual part of the average

Negro Editor, must greatly marvel at the incessant strife between them, and conclude that if they truly represent their people, we are a race of impossible barbarians, intent only upon our own destruction, and as indifferent to the future and to our own great destiny as is the mule who is said to have no pride of ancestry or hope of posterity as to his finish.

The Negro is the best friend you have. He has lived with you and your fathers in perfect peace, both in time of war and in time of peace. When you were poor he made you rich."

A most interesting letter has just been received from our valued correspondent, Mr. A. Goldsmith, of Port Melbourne, Australia, who has been for years the accredited agent of The Colored American for the antartic continent. He tells us of all the necessities of life in the antipodes, and in masterly style portrays the sad condition of the Negroes in Australia since the formation of the great confederation in recent years. It sounds very like our own insistent complaints to learn from him that one of the urgent questions agitating the people of that great country is whether a black aboriginal employee of the Confederated Government is entitled to all of the privileges of a white Australian civil servant. And this occurs, let it be remembered, in a government which is under the protecting Aegis of the great British Empire.

Rev. A. M. Middlebrook, a leading Baptist minister and educator of Pine Bluff, Ark., recently wrote a very strong letter to the Governor of Arkansas protesting against the action of the legislature in making laws which discriminate against the black people in that state; and very pertinently says:

"You and your orators said in the press and on the stump and at every city, crossroads, village and hamlet that if the Negro was manacled with the Australian ballot system and all the political machinery taken from him that there would be no more proscriptive legislation against him, and that there would be a millennium in our state and throughout the borders of our great state and that that would solve and settle the Negro problem forever. And all this has been done, and yet bills are introduced in the halls of our law-making power to the 'segregation of school funds,' not to allow the railroads to hire the Negro as an employee, and so on, still humiliating and driving the Negro to degradation and the jumping off place. We see no parallel for this proscription in legislation. No race on earth has had such to contend with but the Negro.

They but waste their ammunition. The common enemy is still very much alive and still remorseless. Let us train our guns upon his vulnerable outposts, drive in his pickets, lay siege to his strongholds and cease internal bickerings and the outburst of puerile jealousies.

A very pleasant evening was spent last Wednesday at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. John Simms, 1633 P St., the occasion being a surprise party planned by their friends. Those present were: Mr. and Mrs. Phil. Butler, Mr. and Mrs. David Brandon, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Lacy, Mr. and Mrs. David Kenney, Mr. and Mrs. Allen, Mr. and Mrs. Payne, Mrs. F. C. Revells, Mrs. R. Bell, Mr. and Mrs. Green, Mr. and Mrs. Turner.

At the meeting of the St. Luke's Musical Association, on last Monday evening, February 2nd, at the home of the Hon. John P. Green, 1944 9th St. N. W., a large membership and friends were present. A very interesting programme was rendered by the following artists: Soprano solo, Miss Nettie Murray; piano solo, Miss Mamie White; tenor solo, Mr. Wilson; bass solo, Mr. Lloyd Jones, of Columbus, Ohio; addresses, by ex-congressman White, Hon. John P. Green, and Prof. Ferris; orations, by Mr. Wm. H. Carter, Jr., and Mr. Yarborough.

A man whose "social standing" can be lowered by the employment at which he makes a livelihood, never had much solid ground to stand upon in the first place.